



**Pat McCrory, Governor**

**Susan Kluttz, Secretary**

**North Carolina  
Department of Cultural Resources  
*Queen Anne's Revenge* Fact Sheet**

- On November 21, 1996, Intersal, Inc., a private research firm operating under a permit from the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources (DCR), discovered a cluster of cannons and anchors on the seabed near Beaufort Inlet. Their former Director of Operations, Mike Daniel, used historical research provided by Intersal's late founder, Philip Masters, to locate the wreck. The site yielded several 18th century artifacts, including a bronze bell dated 1705, sounding weight, English blunderbuss barrel, lead cannon apron, and two cannonballs. Those items led archaeologists to believe the wreck was the pirate Blackbeard's flagship, *Queen Anne's Revenge* (QAR), which sank in 1718.
- Professional archaeologists with DCR's Office of State Archaeology later confirmed the shipwreck as the QAR. QAR is internationally significant because of her connection to Blackbeard, who epitomizes piracy in the Americas, and her association with events during the Proprietary period (1663-1729). Her archaeological remains give insights into early 18th century maritime activities, including naval warfare, ship construction and repair, colonial provisioning, and the West African slave trade. The site has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 2004.
- Recognizing QAR's significance, DCR, Intersal, and Maritime Research Institute ("MRI") entered into an agreement in 1998. Intersal agreed to forego entitlement to any coins and precious metals recovered from QAR in order that all QAR artifacts remain as one intact collection, and in order for DCR to determine the ultimate disposition of the artifacts. In return, Intersal was granted media, replica, and other rights related to Blackbeard's QAR Shipwreck Project; MRI was granted joint QAR artifact touring rights with DCR. That agreement expired in 2013. DCR, Intersal, and Rick Allen of Nautilus Productions signed a new collaborative agreement (2013) connected to QAR commercial, replica, and promotional opportunities for the benefit of QAR. The State of North Carolina owns QAR since the wreck lies in state waters (3 mile limit). DCR professionally excavates QAR, conserves and promotes the artifact collections, and determines disposition of the artifacts in museum and educational exhibits.
- Investigations of the shipwreck site from 1996 to 2004 involved high-tech remote sensing, exploratory excavations, and mapping of exposed remains, providing a thorough understanding of the extent and layout of the shipwreck. A site sampling program conducted in fall 2005 and accelerated to full recovery mode by the fall of 2006.
- Ongoing archaeological work involves the conservation of items recovered from the shipwreck, from specks of gold, pewter platters, glass beads, and brass pins, to 2000 pound cannons and 12 foot-long anchors. Through 2013, 22 guns have been recovered. DCR continues to excavate the site, with the goal of removing all shipwreck remains from the seabed, and moving them into the safety of the conservation laboratory where storms no longer threaten their integrity.
- DCR's QAR Conservation Laboratory is located at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. After arrival in the laboratory, some artifacts can be identified during physical examination; however, most are covered with a heavy layer of corrosion and marine growth from centuries underwater and require x-radiography to identify the contents. Recovered artifacts must be stabilized in wet storage to prevent deterioration. Conservation includes the lengthy process of cleaning, desalination, consolidation, drying, and analysis. It culminates in the public display and interpretation of artifacts in a controlled environment. Thus far, DCR has recovered over 300,000 artifacts.
- The North Carolina Maritime Museum (NCMM) in Beaufort is the designated repository for the conserved QAR artifacts collection. The Blackbeard's *Queen Anne's Revenge* Exhibit features a fascinating assemblage of the only artifacts known to be associated with Blackbeard. The NCMM also sponsors a traveling exhibit which brings the wonders of Blackbeard, piracy, and the history of the state to the doorsteps of the people of North Carolina.
- The QAR Project's website ([www.qaronline.org](http://www.qaronline.org)) provides detailed information on all activities at this valuable historic shipwreck site.